AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-14 as follows:

1. (currently amended) An electrolyte electrode assembly ~~(12)~~ sandwiched between a pair of separators ~~(6a, 6b)~~, said electrolyte electrode assembly ~~(12)~~ comprising an anode ~~(3)~~, a cathode ~~(4)~~, and an electrolyte ~~(2)~~ interposed between said anode ~~(3)~~ and said cathode ~~(4)~~, wherein

a layer ~~(14)~~ is provided between said cathode ~~(4)~~ and said one of said separators ~~(6a, 6b)~~, said layer ~~(14)~~ comprising material which has electron conductivity higher than that of said cathode ~~(4)~~, and which is capable of inducing oxygen reduction.

2. (currently amended) An assembly ~~(12)~~ according to claim 1, wherein said layer ~~(14)~~ comprises a complex oxide containing at least a rare-earth element A, a transitional metal element C, and oxygen O.

3. (currently amended) An assembly ~~(12)~~ according to claim 2, wherein the rare-earth element A comprises at least one element selected from the group consisting of La, Sm, Nd, and Pr, and the transitional metal element C comprises at least one element selected from the group consisting of Co, Fe, Ni, Cr, Mn, Ga and Ti.

4. (currently amended) An assembly ~~(12)~~ according to claim 2, wherein said layer ~~(14)~~ further contains an alkaline-earth metal element B, and composition formula of material of said layer ~~(14)~~ is $A_xB_{1-x}CO_3$ ($0.5 \leq x \leq 1.0$).

5. (currently amended) An assembly ~~(12)~~ according to claim 4, wherein the rare-earth element A comprises at least one element selected from the group consisting of La, Sm, Nd, and Pr, the transitional metal element C comprises at least one element selected from the group consisting of Co, Fe, Ni, Cr, Mn, Ga and Ti, and the alkaline-earth metal element B comprises at least one element selected from the group consisting of Ca, Sr, and Ba.

6. (currently amended) An assembly ~~(12)~~ according to claim 2~~any one of claims 2 through 5~~, wherein said layer ~~(14)~~ comprises a perovskite complex oxide.

7. (currently amended) An assembly ~~(12)~~ according to claim 1~~any one of claims 1 through 6~~, wherein said layer ~~(14)~~ has a thickness of 10 μm or less.

8. (currently amended) A method of producing an electrolyte electrode assembly ~~(12)~~ sandwiched between a pair of separators ~~(6a, 6b)~~, said electrolyte electrode assembly ~~(12)~~ including an anode ~~(3)~~, a cathode ~~(4)~~, and an electrolyte ~~(2)~~ interposed between said anode ~~(3)~~ and said cathode ~~(4)~~, said method comprising the steps of:

providing said anode ~~(3)~~;

stacking said electrolyte ~~(2)~~ on said anode for allowing oxide ions to move through said electrolyte ~~(2)~~, and then, applying a firing process to said anode ~~(3)~~ and said electrolyte ~~(2)~~;

providing said cathode ~~(4)~~ on said electrolyte ~~(2)~~ after the firing process; and

providing a layer ~~(14)~~ on said cathode ~~(4)~~, said layer ~~(14)~~ comprising material which has electron conductivity higher than that of said cathode ~~(4)~~, and which is capable of inducing oxygen reduction.

9. (currently amended) A method of producing an electrolyte electrode assembly ~~(12)~~ according to claim 8, wherein a firing process is applied to said cathode ~~(4)~~ and said layer ~~(14)~~ after said layer ~~(14)~~ is provided on said cathode ~~(4)~~.

10. (currently amended) A method of producing an electrolyte electrode assembly ~~(12)~~ according to claim 8, wherein said layer ~~(14)~~ is provided after applying a firing process to said cathode ~~(4)~~, and then, a firing process is applied to said layer ~~(14)~~.

11. (currently amended) A method of producing an electrolyte electrode assembly ~~(12)~~ sandwiched between a pair of separators ~~(6a, 6b)~~, said electrolyte electrode assembly ~~(12)~~ including an anode ~~(3)~~, a cathode ~~(4)~~, and an electrolyte ~~(2)~~ interposed between said anode ~~(3)~~ and said cathode ~~(4)~~, said method comprising the steps of:

providing said electrolyte ~~(2)~~ by applying a firing process to powder of material which is

prepared to have oxide ion conductivity;

providing said anode ~~(3)~~ on one surface of said electrolyte ~~(2)~~;

providing said cathode ~~(4)~~ on the other surface of said electrolyte ~~(2)~~; and

providing a layer ~~(14)~~ on an exposed surface of said cathode ~~(4)~~, said layer ~~(14)~~ comprising material which has electron conductivity higher than that of said cathode ~~(4)~~, and which is capable of inducing oxygen reduction.

12. (currently amended) A method of producing an electrolyte electrode assembly ~~(12)~~ according to claim 11, wherein said anode ~~(3)~~ is stacked on one surface of said electrolyte ~~(2)~~, and said cathode ~~(4)~~ is stacked on the other surface of said electrolyte ~~(2)~~, then, said layer ~~(14)~~ is stacked on said cathode ~~(4)~~, and subsequently, a firing process is applied to said anode ~~(3)~~, said cathode ~~(4)~~ and said layer ~~(14)~~.

13. (currently amended) A method of producing an electrolyte electrode assembly ~~(12)~~ according to claim 11, wherein a firing process is applied to said anode ~~(3)~~, then, said cathode ~~(4)~~ and said layer ~~(14)~~ are stacked on said electrolyte ~~(2)~~, thereafter, a firing process is applied to said cathode ~~(4)~~ and said layer ~~(14)~~.

14. (currently amended) A method of producing an electrolyte electrode assembly ~~(12)~~ according to claim 11, wherein (i) a firing process is applied to said anode ~~(3)~~, then, (ii) said cathode ~~(4)~~ is stacked on said electrolyte ~~(3)~~, then, (iii) a firing process is applied to said cathode ~~(4)~~, then, (iv) said layer ~~(14)~~ is stacked on said cathode ~~(4)~~, and then, (v) a firing process is applied to said layer ~~(14)~~.